

ADOT needs twice the money for SM Loop 202

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The Arizona Department of Transportation is seeking to double the amount of money earmarked for the South Mountain Loop 202 freeway, from the original \$1.1 billion to \$2.2 billion.

The additional funding is contained in a bold \$42 billion 30-year statewide transportation plan that requires a one cent sales tax hike, which voters will decide on in November.

The South Mountain Freeway is still in the planning stages after seven years of study and is currently estimated to cost more than \$1.7 billion.

Originally conceived in 1985, it would go from Interstate 10 in Ahwatukee Foothills, along Pecos Road where it is estimated that 317 homes will be torn down to make way for the 10-lane freeway, cut through ridges in South Mountain Park that are sacred to the Gila River Indian Community, turn north and pass through two high priority hazardous material sites before reconnecting with I-10 near 55th Avenue.